

PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Visual Screening of Children in Public Schools

Substitute House Bill 1951

State Board of Health

December 13, 2006

Purpose of the Presentation

- Review the requirements of Substitute House Bill 1951(2005)
- Identify how the legislative requirements were met
- Discuss recommendations
- Consider public health benefits

SHB 1951 Minimum Considerations

- The benefits of complete eye exams on public school children
- Visual screening and/or complete eye exams in preschool or Kindergarten through high school
- What screening techniques would be appropriate in a school setting

Process

- Workgroup of experts convened
- Reviewed the most current and comprehensive research
- Reviewed three national guidelines
- Reviewed current legal authority
- State and national guest speakers
- Stakeholder engagement

Minimum Recommendations

- Screening recommended instead of complete eye exams for public school children
- Proof of screening or exam required prior to school entry
- Expand Screening & Screening Tools
- All vision screening programs should be allowed to adopt evidence-based screening tools and techniques

Other Issues Considered

- Reimbursement for vision screening as a billable procedure
- Require compensation of vision screening as a covered medical expense
- Create and distribute educational information for parents

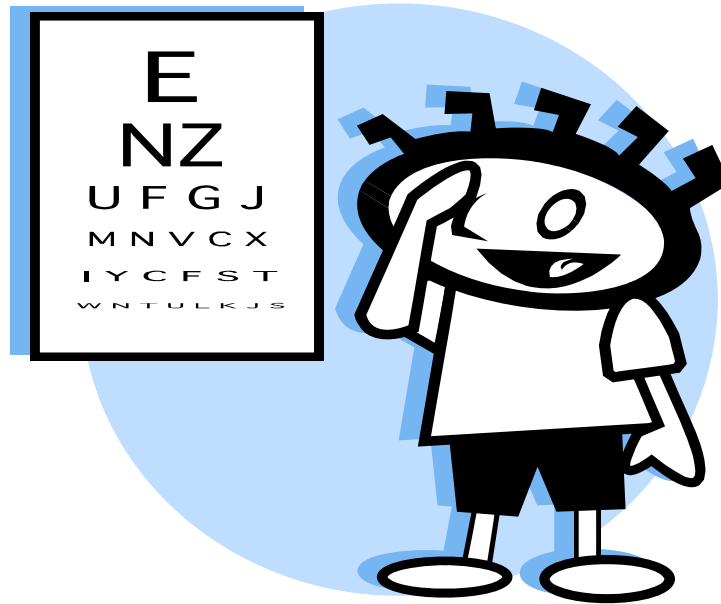
Other Issues Considered (Con't.)

- Develop standards and a process to train both lay and professional screeners
- Information to parents to help identify visual defects

Public Health Benefit of Vision Screening

- Screening is primary prevention that leads to early intervention.
- Early childhood is the most critical period of development for the vision system
- Early identification and intervention prevents permanent visual impairment.

Questions?



Contact Information:

Beth Siemon

Phone: 360.236.3526

Email: beth.siemon@doh.wa.gov

PUBLIC HEALTH

ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND

HEALTHIER WASHINGTON